

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
October 23, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Mr. Minchuk and Mrs. Barron were absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

Mr. Hardaway congratulated Andrean High School football team for winning the Northwest Cross Roads Conference Championship.

Ms. Shine read a compliance letter from a petitioner for a board and zone appeals. Mr. Hardaway thanked all staff for making sure everything was in compliance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated October 23, 2018. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 9, 2018. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk was absent. Mr. Spires read the approval of the LPA Consultant Contract for the Multi-Agency Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption Project the contract is with Robinson Engineering. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Spires said leaf pick-up has started and will continue through November. Mr. Pettit said a resident of the town inquired about branch pick up. Mr. Spires said there are not set dates on when pick is available but residents are welcomed to drop off branches off at the North facility or you can put them into the Waste Management garbage.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron had no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac referred to Mr. Spires for a report. Mr. Spires said a lease regarding the Fire Station located on 72nd and Taft this lease will reflect the same lease that was done on 57th and Harrison with Superior. Mr. Spires said they would rent out a small portion of the station and all money would go to the Fire Territory. Mr. Spires said the lease has been approved by the Territory Board and has to be approved by both Ross Township and Merrillville Town Council. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Peturch said officers are participating in "lunch with a cop" every Tuesday and Thursday at MIS from 11:00am-1:00pm. Mr. Peturch said officers are trying to encourage a good relationship with the students. Mr. Peturch said the Police Station has been in contact with the Merrillville School Corporation to have a second school Resource Officers for the Middle school sometime next year.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca made a motion for acquiring land for the Community Center Project and entered a motion that the Town Council President be granted authority by the Town Council to enter an addendum to purchases an agreement for parcels and the offer to purchase will be contingent upon council appropriation of funds for purchase and to immediately engage the DVG Team to provide a surveyor on the above parcels. Mr. Sevitanoff said the seller of the property has agreed to clear up any easement issues. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Uzelac reported that there was some vandalism at Rosenblum Park she thanked Ms. Olrich for cleaning up the park immediately. Mr. Peturch said he will make sure to have more patrols in the area.

Ms. Olrich said planning has started for the Santa Precession it will take place Friday December 7th at 6pm the precession will start at MIS and make it way East on 61st. and end at Pruzin Park. Ms. Olrich said the Fall Schedule is in effect classes are running throughout the week with some night classes.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mr. Barron had no report.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Mrs. Uzelac said absentee voting is going on right now with Lake County our election will be November 6th. Mr. Pettit gave a reminder that the Crossroad Gala will be held November 17th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit gave brief information on a presentation that was held at Avalon Manor regarding the White Lodging Development.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann thanked Public Works for picking up branches for residents that were cut down by Nipsco.

Mrs. Uzelac said that Nipsco should still be working in the area and reminded residents that they are responsible for bringing the branches to the front of their property.

Mr. Lake said Nipsco will cut and remove branches for an Emergency Line Clearance and for a Routine Line Clearance they will stack the larger branches in a fire place line.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway said he spoke with contractors who are Rehabbing Houses in the town who expressed the housing market value going up. Mr. Hardaway asked that we give them our support with the great job they been doing with homes in the area.

Mr. Sevtanoff said he had an announcement for the Town Council and everyone present about attaining the parcels for the property at the Old Mill. Mr. Sevtanoff said he wanted to thank Lake County Commissioner Kyle Allen who was present in addition to Tim Brown from the Lake County Economic Development Commissioner for all there help with attaining the parcels.

Mr. Hardaway said they will start asbestos abatement. Mr. Spires confirmed that Ryan's Construction will have someone who specializes in asbestos removal to come in. Mr. Spires said Nipsco is scheduled to be in to disconnect gas and electric and water have been turn off once all utilities are turned off they should start demo on Monday. Discussion followed.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 18-24:

An Ordinance reclassifying certain lands, also known as Heritage North (Phase-5) in the Town Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for zoning purposes. Mr. Sevtanoff asked the council to waive the rules and enter this ordinance into a second reading tonight. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend rules for the first reading ordinance and enter 18-24 into a second reading. Ms. LaMarca seconded the motion. No discussion followed the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Ord. 18-25:

An Ordinance reclassifying certain lands, also known as Heritage North (phase-6) in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for zoning purposes. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to suspend rules for the first reading ordinance and enter 18-25 into a second reading. Ms. LaMarca seconded the motion. No discussion followed the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Ord. 18-26:

An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino Fund for the year 2018 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 18-24:

An Ordinance reclassifying certain lands, also known as Heritage North (Phase-5) in the Town Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for zoning purposes. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

Ord. 18-25:

An Ordinance reclassifying certain lands, also known as Heritage North (phase-6) in the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, for zoning purposes. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 5-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 18- 26:

A Resolution accepting and approving a lease agreement as associated with a portion of a certain town retention pond, and all matters related thereto. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Spires said a meeting was held and Ms. Olrich met with a representative from the 2020 Census. Mr. Spires said the representative would like the communities to set up committee groups that would help assist them with the survey. Some discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, October 24, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Abandoned Blighted Properties commission meeting, October 25. 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Trick or Treating, October 31, 2018 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, November 7, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop November 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall offices closed (except for Emergency Services)
November 12, 2018 in observance of Veterans Day

Veterans Day Ceremony will be on November 12, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
(To be held in the Town Council meeting room)

Redevelopment Commission meeting, November 13, 2018 at 6:15 p.m.

Town Council meeting, November 13, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer